Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended): A lighting device, comprising:

a light source that illuminates an object of illumination, having first and second illuminating light portions;

a reflecting member provided opposite said light source so as to direct the first illuminating light portion emitted therefrom to the object of illumination;

said second illuminating light portion directly illuminating the object of illumination; and

a light-blocking member provided between said light source and the object of illumination, and between said reflecting member and the object of illumination so as to block at least a part of both the first and second illuminating light portions with a certain ratio of a light-blocking rate for the first illuminating light portion to a light-blocking rate for the second illuminating portion of the illuminating light.

2. (Original): The lighting device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said reflecting member is positioned so that a distance between said reflecting member to the object of illumination is less than a distance between said light source and the object of illumination.

3. (Original): The lighting device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a light-transmitting member on which the object of illumination is placeable, the

light-transmitting member being provided between said reflecting member and the object of illumination,

wherein said light-blocking member is provided to said light-transmitting member.

4. (Original): The lighting device as claimed in claim 3, wherein said light-blocking member is held on said light-transmitting member and provided as part of said light-transmitting member.

5. (Original): The lighting device as claimed in claim 4, wherein said light-blocking member is formed integrally with said light-transmitting member by printing.

6. (Original): The lighting device as claimed in claim 4, wherein said light-blocking member is formed integrally with said light-transmitting member by performing surfacing processing thereon.

7. (Previously Presented): The lighting device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the light-blocking rate for the second illuminating portion is greater than the light-blocking rate for the first illuminating portion.

8. (Previously Presented): The lighting device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said reflecting member is positioned so that the first illuminating portion and the second illuminating portion are balanced in quantity.

9. (Original): An image sensor, comprising:

a lighting device as set forth in claim 1;

a light-receiving element receiving light reflected from the object of illumination; and

a focusing lens condensing the light received from the object of illumination toward said light-receiving element.

10. (Currently Amended): A lighting device, comprising:

light source means for illuminating an object of illumination, having first and second illuminating light portions;

reflecting means provided opposite said light source for directing the first illuminating light portion emitted therefrom to the object of illumination;

said second illuminating light portion directly illuminating the object of illumination; and

light-blocking means provided between said light source and the object of illumination, and between said reflecting member and the object of illumination for blocking at least a part of both the first and second illuminating light portions with a certain ratio of a light-blocking rate for the first illuminating light portion to a light-blocking rate for the second illuminating portion of the illuminating light

11. (Original): The lighting device as claimed in claim 10, wherein said reflecting means is positioned so that a distance between said reflecting means to the object of illumination is less than a distance between said light source means and the object of illumination.

12. (Original): The lighting device as claimed in claim 10, further comprising light-transmitting means on which the object of illumination is placeable, the light-transmitting means being provided between said reflecting means and the object of illumination,

wherein said light-blocking means is provided to said light-transmitting means.

13. (Original): The lighting device as claimed in claim 12, wherein said light-blocking means is held on said light-transmitting means and provided as part of said light-transmitting means.

14. (Original): The lighting device as claimed in claim 13, wherein said light-blocking means is formed integrally with said light-transmitting means by printing.

15. (Original): The lighting device as claimed in claim 13, wherein said light-blocking means is formed integrally with said light-transmitting means by performing surfacing processing thereon.

16. (Previously Presented): The lighting device as claimed in claim 10, wherein the light-blocking rate for the second illuminating portion is greater than the light-blocking rate for the first illuminating portion.

17. (Previously Presented): The lighting device as claimed in claim 10,

wherein said reflecting means is positioned so that the first illuminating portion and the second illuminating portion are balanced in quantity.

18. (Original): An image sensor, comprising:

a lighting device as set forth in claim 10;

light-receiving means for receiving light reflected from the object of illumination; and

focusing means for condensing the light received from the object of illumination toward said light-receiving means.

19. (Previously Presented): The lighting device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the light-blocking member is positioned so that the first illuminating portion and the second illuminating portion are balanced in quantity.

20. (Previously Presented): The lighting device as claimed in claim 10, wherein the light-blocking means is positioned so that the first illuminating portion and the second illuminating portion are balanced in quantity.